

January 26, 1996 LB 939, 1141

you would see fit to I think really do one of the major crime bills of the session, regardless of some of the other publicity that may be out there, that this truly is a nuts and bolts, fundamental issue that needs to be put back, add some common sense, reverse and supersede the ruling of State v. Smith. And I'd ask the advancement of LB 939.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Thank you, Senator Kristensen. The question before you is the advancement of LB 939. All those in favor vote aye; all those opposed vote nay. Please record.

CLERK: 31 ayes, 0 nays, Madam President, on the advancement of LB 939.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: LB 939 advances. LB 1141.

CLERK: LB 1141, introduced by Senator Bernard-Stevens. (Read title.) The bill was introduced on January 9 of this year, referred to the Judiciary Committee, advanced to General File. I have no amendments to the bill, Madam President.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Chair recognizes Senator Bernard-Stevens to open on the bill.

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: Thank you, Madam President, members of the Legislature. This bill was introduced to Judiciary Committee this year and unanimously voted out of Judiciary Committee, which in itself is saying something, I think, for the committee I'm on, at least this year, seemed to be unusual. It is something, Senator Elmer, you're correct. What we had a few years ago, as we passed LB 988, which was the juvenile justice bill, and at that time most of the discussion was on the security detention facility and guns in schools, and it wasn't really on the main focus of the bill, which is the beginning of the community-based programs. And those are the programs that we'll set up...that we want to set up for kids, children in our state that are getting into trouble but have no services available to them. Right now judges in the state do not have much flexibility in how to deal with children. They could put them on community service, they could put them on probation, they could send them to Kearney, they could send the girls to Geneva and what have you, but there aren't services available. What we did then last year was we put the dollars in that would begin...since we couldn't do it statewide at that point, OJS was